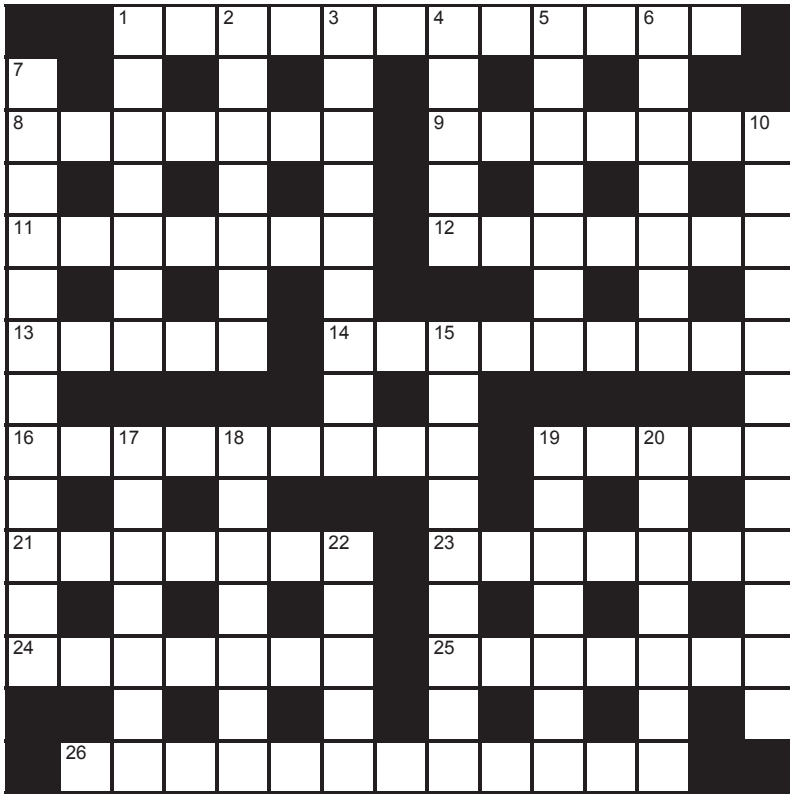


CROSSWORD

No 16,988 Set by SLORMGORM



ACROSS

- 1 One delivering numbers in a theatre (12)
- 8 Talk tediously about housing old Lance with Barb (7)
- 9 I'm Slormgorm and about to save small duck (7)
- 11 Records by extremely diminutive soprano (7)
- 12 Longer piece from Yes and Queen enthral's composer (7)
- 13 Some feel Enedina is a woman's name (5)
- 14 Come around late and serve Pole crackers (9)
- 16 Marine talks wildly about navy swimmers (3,6)
- 19 Month cut short on cold island (5)
- 21 Blurt out old allegation (7)
- 23 Love's frontman in film with X-Factor singer (4,3)
- 24 Usual place to put back out for a climber? (7)
- 25 Don't cross a ballot paper with a black mark (7)
- 26 Figurative novel or a metal chip (12)

DOWN

- 1 Organise a headliner for Royal Variety (7)
- 2 Pole tucking into beer is a missionary (7)
- 3 Rock show's opening with Mick Jagger? (9)
- 4 Frighteningly dangerous as King Kong? (5)
- 5 He fought Jerry from 1940 with men and beasts (7)
- 6 Unknown visitor finally polished off rum (7)
- 7 One who cleans stack of my pieces when playing (7,5)
- 10 Extremely shrill patients girl sorted out (3-9)
- 15 Simple church song is "A Resting Place" (4,5)
- 17 A swear word said out loud could be damn (7)
- 18 A hobbling lawyer in a Texan tree-lined walk (7)
- 19 Catholic girl in charge is outstanding (7)
- 20 Booby trap and mine everyone gets around fine (7)
- 22 You must open insect trap (5)

JOTTER PAD